



Fig. 195.

The eye is a well known and very common symbol of Devi, and plays a very conspicuous part in many ceremonies having a phallic origin or intent. In India it is drawn plain as in Figure 195; but Ashtoreth, or Astarte, is often represented by an eye drawn in rough outline, as presented in Figure 196, and is then interpreted to mean the door of life—feminine fecundity—the Mother Creator. There is no physiological reason why the eye is any more appropriate to symbolize a goddess than a god—

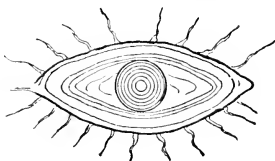


Fig. 196.

for sight is equally an endowment of both sexes. The eye, as drawn horizontally, is simply the *vesica picis* in a changed position from its natural perpendicularity; and the pupil represents the masculine emblem in its union therewith—that is the androgynous character of the Creator. The Indian myth explains how and why this symbol was adopted, and also explains the meaning of the spotted robe of divine personages, as well as the spots on sacred or symbolic animals. The story relates that Indra, like David, became enamored of a beautiful woman whom he accidentally saw, but who was the wife of another man. This woman's husband had, by his piety and austerity, attained to almost divine power. He forgave his erring wife (a really divine thing to do), but he punished the adulterous god of the sky by covering him with a multitude of pictures of the yoni. This was a terrible mortification to Indra; but, by the

intercession of the other gods, the wronged husband was induced to change the yonii on the culprit's body into eyes. These, however, were to be so arranged in threes or fours as to preserve their phallic meaning.

The eye — the all-seeing eye — is a favorite modern symbol, especially with secret societies. It may have had its origin as above suggested; but, independent of this myth, it has a good foundation as the symbol of the Mother Creator, or as the feminine side or attributes of a masculine or androgynous creator. The ancients — and many moderns as well, considered reason — in the sense of logic and calculation — as a peculiarity of the masculine mind, while they looked upon perception and intuition as especially feminine attributes. The eye, as the organ of sight, would, therefore, naturally represent intuition, and hence the Celestial Mother.

THE COCK has from time immemorial been the symbol of masculinity. The doctrine and interpretation seems to be that the cock announces the rising sun — the god of day. For its size this bird is remarkably strong, courageous, and enduring, and he seems to have unlimited virile powers among the hens.

Minerva — also called Pallas — is often shown with a cock sitting on her helmet; and her crest denotes her admiration for this salacious bird. The sacrifice of a cock was a solemn ceremony of the highest order in Greece. The Celts also practiced the same ceremony. The sacrifice is common now in many parts of Asia, where the priests select at will — for no refusal is anticipated — the finest bird in the village. They carry it